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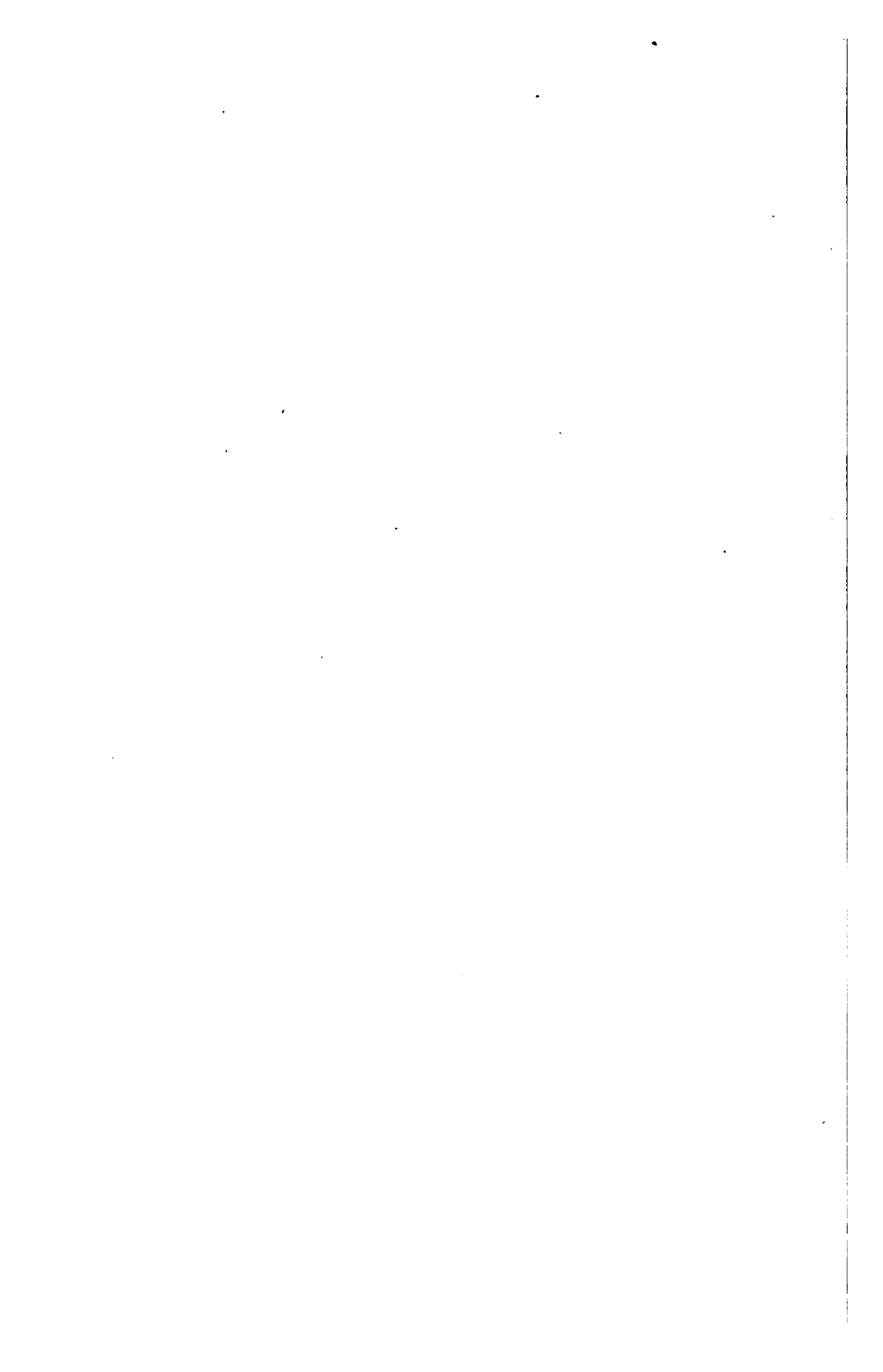
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**A worthy woman who can find? For her
price is far above rubies.**

Strength and dignity are her clothing.

**She openeth her mouth with wisdom, and
the law of kindness is on her tongue.**

**Many daughters have done worthily, but
thou excellest them all.**

**Grace is deceitful and beauty is vain; but
a woman that feareth Jehovah, she shall be
praised.**

**Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let
her works praise her in the gates.**

In Memoriam

Abbie B. Child

April 8, 1840

November 9, 1902



"Enlargement waits upon her every sense;
Time, with its grudging limits, is forgot;
Space infinite, tasks endless, daunt her not;
Heaven's largess scorns Earth's scanty measurements."



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Life Record.

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ABBIE BULLOCK CHILD was born at Southbridge, Mass., April 8, 1840. She was the daughter of Hon. Linus Child, who was a member of the Prudential Committee of the A. B. C. F. M. from 1859 to 1870, and she inherited the intellectual strength and acumen of her honored father. Her mother was also deeply interested in the work of foreign missions, and with Mrs. Albert Bowker and Mrs. Rufus Anderson was one of the charter members of the Woman's Board of Missions, which was incorporated in 1869, a year after its organization. Miss Child was graduated at Maplewood Institute, Pittsfield, Mass., in 1858. She became connected with the Woman's Board of Missions as Home Secretary in 1870, and ever after was a familiar and honored figure in all missionary circles in New England, in America, in all Protestant Christendom. Next to Mrs. Albert Bowker, the founder of the Board, she has been the most prominent leader in building up this great organization, in administering its affairs at home and in guiding its successful work abroad. She has been almost as well known in the missionary circles of other denominations as in her own, and her name has been familiar in foreign missionary societies around the world. She was the official representative of her Board in the World's Conference in Exeter Hall, London, in 1888, and read an important paper there. She was the chairman of a committee formed at that conference for the more effective prosecution of work for women in all lands. She took a leading part in preparing for the Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions in Carnegie Hall, New York, April, 1900; and was one of the notable members of the conference. She was there made chairman of the committee to provide plans for the United Study of Missions among the Christian women of the world. For thirty-two years Miss Child had been the Home Secretary of the Board and editor of *Life and Light*, and she had made her missionary zeal and information constantly felt throughout the whole constituency of the Board. In 1888 she visited the missions in Spain and Turkey, and in 1895-96 she made a journey around the world, visiting especially the missions of the Board in India, China and Japan.

Wm. H. Hall
C. H. Hall
L. H. Hall
1902

Funeral Services at
Central Congregational Church, Boston
November 12, 1902

Funeral Services

Miss Child returned on Friday, November 7th, from the annual meeting in Washington, was at her desk in the Board rooms on Saturday, and after a good night's sleep, arose Sunday morning, November 9th, with the intention of going to church. After a brief conversation at the breakfast table, she was carried away in the arms of her friends. A weak heart had occasioned anxiety, but there had been nothing to arouse apprehension that the end might be near.

The sky was overcast in Boston on November 12th, the day of her funeral, but the clouds were not heavy. Looking up we were sure that could our vision pierce the soft gray veil we should see a sky of radiant sapphire, filled with glorious light. Something like this was the mood of those who gathered in Central Church, to pay tribute of honor and farewell to one gone out of sight. We could not forget the bewildering, aching sense of loss and pain, but our hearts were filled with solemn joy and thanksgiving for her. Akin to this, too, were all the words spoken; because we love her we must rejoice that she has gone to the Father.

Many women who were bound to her in that near and blessed tie that grows in long service of the Master had come from near and far, longing for one more touch of our leader, and most of our Branches were represented.

A wealth of exquisite flowers, snowy chrysanthemums, roses white, pink and crimson, blended with palms of

Memorial to

victory, covered choir gallery, pulpit, lectern and platform, and told the love of many friends. As we waited, the soft organ music filled the room, and we found ourselves praying, "Lead, kindly Light."

The pallbearers were Dr. Barton, Dr. Daniels and Mr. Wiggin of the American Board, with three personal friends, Dr. Stone, Mr. Leach and Mr. Houghton.

It was only a little group of the household circle that followed the casket; most of her kindred had welcomed her to the land of light, but every one present was a mourner, and the stricken sister must have felt a throb of sympathy as we rose, standing till those nearest were seated.

Dr. J. L. Jenkins, a life-long family friend, led us in a tender prayer of invocation, and Miss Ricker sang Mendelssohn's most comforting word, "O Rest in the Lord." Dr. E. E. Strong read Scripture quotations so apt that one said they seemed to have been written for Miss Child. Dr. Judson Smith then pronounced a brief eulogy, full of praise, yet so just and discriminating that there was not one word too much. After the singing of "Pilgrims of the Night," Dr. E. L. Clark, for many years her pastor, spoke words of appreciation of her noble, Christ-like character and service, dwelling on her work and influence in her own church, and closing with prayer and benediction.

The organ seemed to speak the thought of us all when it gave forth triumphantly, "For all thy saints who from their labors rest," and we went out as from heaven's gate, with hearts comforted and inspired to better service.

H. F. L.

Abbie B. Child

Scripture

**Selected and Read by Rev. E. E. Strong, D.D., Editor
of the "Missionary Herald"**

Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

So teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom.

Return, O Jehovah : how long ? And let it repent thee concerning thy servants.

O satisfy us in the morning with thy loving-kindness ; that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad according to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us, and the years wherein we have seen evil.

Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory upon their children.

And let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us ; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us ; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

The Lord giveth the word : the women that publish the tidings are a great host.

And Jesus said : Blessed are the poor in spirit : for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn : for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek : for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness : for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful : for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart : for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers : for they shall be called the sons of God.

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Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother. Martha said unto Jesus, Lord if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

And even now, I know that whatsoever thou shalt ask of God, God will give thee.

Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth on me, though he die, yet shall he live.

And whosoever liveth and believeth on me shall never die. Believest thou this?

For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

But when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?

The sting of death is sin; and the power of sin is the law.

But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the midst of the street thereof.

And on this side of the river and on that, was the tree of life, bearing twelve manner of fruits, yielding its fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

And there shall be no curse any more: and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be therein; and his servants shall serve him.

And they shall see his face; and his name shall be on their foreheads.

And there shall be night no more; and they need no light of lamp, neither light of sun; for the Lord God shall give them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

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Address by Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.

Secretary of A. B. C. F. M.

It is an impressive record that recites the closing scenes in the life of Elijah: the affectionate solicitude of Elisha, his devoted attendant, and the cry of admiring love and regret which greets the wonderful vision of horses and chariots of fire by which the great prophet vanished from the sight of all things earthly, "My father, my father! the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof." Such a tribute must have arisen in many hearts and sprung to many lips when the tidings came of our friend's swift and painless translation last Sunday morning. A dearly beloved friend, a recognized and honored leader in a great cause, a counselor true and weighty, one of those

"Upon whose hand and heart and brain
The name and fame of nations hang,"

in the midst of busy plans, fresh from a great meeting in which she had borne a leading part, facing a new crisis with all her wonted courage and faith—she "was not, for God took her." Who could wish for her a different end? From the presence of friends, from the center of her home, in an instant, "the twinkling of an eye," she has passed the eternal gates and is at rest "with kings and counselors of the earth."

"We believe her
Something far advanced in state,
And that she wears a truer crown
Than any wreath that man can weave her."

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It is for us who have known her long and loved her well to speak the love and reverence and regret with which our hearts are full as we pay these last rites of affection here. Miss Child's life covered the stirring and eventful years from 1840 to this hour. The child of a Christian home, where missionary interests were held in honor, thoroughly educated in the schools of her time, she naturally became identified with the Woman's Board almost as soon as it was organized, and for thirty-two years served as Home Secretary and editor of *Life and Light*. Selected for these positions by Mrs. Bowker, founder and first president of the Board, and intimately associated with Mrs. Bowker, Miss Child knew probably better than any other person now living all the history of the Board and of its missions, and was an authority upon all questions of policy and method and principles of administration. Through her positions as editor and secretary she became widely known through all the Branches and auxiliaries of the Board, and gradually in the Boards of other denominations in our own and other lands. In all missionary gatherings and conferences her presence was welcome, her counsels were eagerly sought and her words were weighty. Especially was this the case in the World's Missionary Conference in Exeter Hall, London, in 1888, where she read one of the few papers presented by women, and in the Ecumenical Conference in Carnegie Hall, New York, in 1900, in preparing for which she had rendered important service and in which she was a prominent figure.

It was the natural and fit recognition of her personal gifts and unique position that led to her appointment in

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London as chairman of a committee to spread missionary information and to foster the missionary spirit among Christian women in many lands, and to her selection in New York as the chairman of a committee of women to devise plans for securing among the women of Europe and America the systematic and thorough study of foreign missions in their history and aims and achievements. Through these agencies her influence, so happy in her own Board, was felt deeply and helpfully in awakening and deepening the spirit of missions throughout Protestant Christendom.

Reared in a household of sincere piety and hearty devotion to the cause of missions,—her father, Hon. Linus Child, being one of the leading members of the Prudential Committee for eleven years,—her interest in missions was early awakened, and her loyalty to the American Board was pronounced before she engaged in the work of the Woman's Board. And she was true to this primary estimate of things through all her official life in the Woman's Board, and her joy in serving that Board was because she felt it to be a part of the American Board and contributing to the same great end. No officer of the American Board was ever more loyal to that Board than the Home Secretary of the Woman's Board; and every official of the American Board would gladly bear witness to the reality and power of the great-hearted and true devotion to the whole work always found in intercourse with her.

Her personal qualities were of the highest order, and peculiarly fitted her for these posts. Of superior intellectual gifts, of quick intuitions, of rare discernment, of sound judgment, prolific in plans, of great foresight and bound-

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less faith and courage, strong in convictions, but most fair and reasonable in temper, impartial and magnanimous, she was one among a thousand for the posts she filled and the service she was called upon to render. Her mind was of a comprehensive grasp; she saw things clearly and saw them whole, and her conclusions had the weight and often the form of a judicial sentence. A singular detachment from self and all ambitious aims was the crowning grace in this well-compacted character. Like her Lord, to whom she was wholly given, "not to be ministered unto, but to minister," was the rule and instinctive habit of her life. This made it always easy and delightful to be associated with her in conference or labor of any kind. She listened to the opinions of others with deference; she spoke her own thoughts with clearness and simplicity; she assumed work easily and often beyond her strength; she was always the true-hearted friend, the generous comrade, the inspiring example. Pointed out by long and varied experience and by natural gifts as one to lead on important occasions, in great and far-reaching plans, it was always the choice of others and never on her own initiative that she was brought to the place of leadership and put in the seat of authority.

Naturally sober-minded, accustomed to dwell on the serious aspects of life and duty, a true descendant and child of the Puritans, she yet had a rare sense of humor, as fascinating to others as it was a source of refreshment to herself. It was a part of her real greatness that she could see, and could make others see with her, the laughable side of life and incident; could unbend in the real luxury of a laugh with those who enjoy it most. This sense of humor never became the characteristic feature

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so as at all to approach anything trifling and insincere. It was rather the play of sunlight and shadow on the mountain side, lighting up its surface and revealing its depths, but leaving the majestic height and length unchanged, untouched.

The two important visits which Miss Child made to mission fields were to her a great source of enjoyment, and to the missionaries a blessing and inspiration untold. Whether in Spain or Turkey, in India or China or Japan, she bore, with her quick comprehension of the missionary problems, deep sympathy with the laborers, foreign and native alike, an unfailing fund of hope and courage and good cheer; and returned with her faith in missions greatly deepened and her enthusiasm quickened to the burning point. She could quickly take in the vital elements of the missionary work, and catch its meaning and forecast its larger reach; and thus she examined with sympathy as well as accuracy, with hope as well as comprehension, and with abounding love.

In a broad view of her life and labors it would be hard to determine just where she was strongest and most at home in the varied fields of service she entered. Her versatility was as marked as her aptness and her power. As editor, as correspondent, as counselor, as executive, as public speaker, as member of a deputation, as leader of a missionary circle, or member of a literary society, she excelled in whatever she attempted; she was a marked and leading spirit.

No one but those most intimate with her life and labors can fully know how greatly the Woman's Board is indebted to Miss Child for the steadiness of its development and the greatness of its power; for the zeal and

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wisdom, the conservative and aggressive force, which have given it an unrivaled place among sister organizations in our own and in other churches. And in the present widespread movement toward the systematic study among Christian women of missions in their history and principles and methods, one of the most hopeful and characteristic features of the times, we have one of the many monuments of her leadership and wisdom and abiding power in the missionary life of the times.

She was raised up for the times and for her particular service as Deborah of old, as Mary Lyon of our times; and her works do follow her, and her influence shall live on through the long years to come. Ah! how the familiar ranks are thinning here "on this bank and shoal of time." How the numbers grow of those who stand beyond, appareled in celestial light! And ever the joy rises and the meaning deepens in the song of the redeemed:—

"For all thy saints who from their labors rest,
Who thee, by faith, before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest."

Dr. Judson Smith was followed by Rev. Edward L. Clark, D.D., Miss Child's pastor for the last ten years.

Rev. Edward L. Clark, D.D.

We have listened with the deepest interest to the story of a noble life, which like the sun has gone forth to the ends of the earth.

It is also our consolation to recall the peculiar charm of her presence at home in this church which was very dear to her.

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Into every work she brought inspiration. By the clearness of her judgment, the strength of her opinions and the sweet reasonableness with which she approached every question, she was a natural leader. Accustomed to see the best in everyone and the most in every opportunity, she had a prophet's vision like Elisha of "those who be for us" when the servant sees only the enemy. In her light clouds of difficulty became luminous.

She was utterly free from indirect methods of work. She always walked in a straight way; therefore the children trusted her, and all took counsel of her. She did not care to be thought clever, only to do right.

Her views of truth were broad and fresh and joyous. The Master of Emmaus ever revealed new truth to her wondering eyes. And thus she came to the table and knew Him in breaking of bread, with a light upon her face "which never shone on sea or land."

What a wonderful gift of friendship distinguished her! How the obligations of the church blossomed into loyalty, bore fruits and leaves of healing as unweariedly as the trees of the heavenly city! Who has heard her speak of those who wrought beside her without remembering that we best know a person by what they think of others? Her confidence and admiration for the Board and the church was a witness to herself of which she was quite unconscious.

The church returns thanks for the manner of the departure of this dear and gifted soul. Her promotion to larger usefulness came in a moment of victory. She found her heavenly "labours of love showed toward his name" as suddenly as an Eastern spring bursts into summer. She did not see death.

Memorial to Abbie B. Child

We wonder that our endowments and opportunities are so few. Let us take heart to-day, as we recall what she was in the grace which crowned her work, her quiet spirit, her simple faith, her happy heart. If the crown of life is given to those who are "faithful to the end,"—and faithful servants are those who have done well,—we may all come to her again who this day stands among the "saints in glory everlasting."



**Memorial Service in
Pilgrim Hall, Congregational House
Friday Morning, Nov. 21**

A Special Memorial Service

The regular Friday morning prayer meeting of the Woman's Board held in Pilgrim Hall, November 21st, took the form of a Memorial Service to Miss Child, Mrs. Judson Smith presiding. After the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" was sung, Dr. Daniels spoke to the Father our thanksgiving for this perfected life and our petition for help and comfort. Mrs. Smith showed us Miss Child's life principles and service as only an intimate fellow-worker could know them. Mrs. Hill, president of Essex South Branch, voiced the appreciation and grief of the Branch officers. Two stanzas of "My faith looks up to Thee" were sung, and Mrs. Tracy, of Marsovan, told us how much Miss Child's love and care had meant to the missionaries. Miss Butler, of the Methodist Woman's Board, expressed her deep sense of gratitude for sympathy and help often given, and Mrs. Waterbury, of the Baptist Board, gave us strong words of comfort. Dr. Strong told of her relation to the American Board, and after the hymn "The Church's One Foundation" was sung, Dr. Barton led in prayer and pronounced the benediction. The large audience lingered, loath to depart, feeling that every word had been worthy, but that we could hardly say enough.

Address by Mrs. Judson Smith

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye," the last summons came to Miss Child, our dearly beloved Home Secretary and editor of *Life and Light*. As the first

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shock of this sudden bereavement passes and our vision becomes clearer, we gather gladly and tenderly to speak of her who was so much to a world-wide circle of friends and to the missionary cause. We are profoundly grateful that she was in her accustomed place at the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Woman's Board in Washington, where an advance step was taken in the plans for the coming year; where the "Adjustment Fund" of \$50,000 was completed, and a movement begun that promises to increase the subscription list of *Life and Light*. With all this to give satisfaction and joy, could not our beloved Secretary have had it in her heart to say, "Now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace"?

Miss Child has had so large and vital a place in the Woman's Board that we cannot but regard her as one of the few representative women of her times, raised up for a great and special service. The way was prepared by the experiences of the women of the churches during the Civil War for the establishment of the Woman's Boards of Missions. Mrs. Albert Bowker, our first President and the leader in this movement, with true discrimination saw the promise in Miss Child, and early secured her active interest and service in the Woman's Board. The call to this service came to Miss Child when she was in deep sorrow through the death of her revered father, Hon. Linus M. Child, for many years a member of the Prudential Committee of the American Board. The name of Miss Child's mother stands with those of Mrs. Bowker and Mrs. Anderson as one of the incorporators of the Woman's Board. She, also, was called early to her heavenly home. One can readily see

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that the growing work of the Board was a great solace and opportunity to the twice-bereaved young secretary and editor. Now that she has passed from mortal view, let us try in some measure to give expression to our love and appreciation of this rare woman and servant of Jesus Christ. As we recall the slight physique, we remember how the spiritual, the intellectual, ever seemed to dominate the frail body. We marvel now, as always before, that one so delicately organized could accomplish with apparent ease the full work of two persons. Miss Child was a woman of the finest instincts—thoroughly feminine, always a lady. Her natural tact and quick sympathies made her companionship a delight. Her loyalty to principle, to friends, to a cause, was never questioned. There was a rare sweetness and generosity of nature, that charity that “thinketh no evil,” that led her to put the best construction on what was said or done and to appreciate fully the efforts of associates. An exceedingly equable disposition helped her to bear “the strain of toil, the fret of care” that must come to the missionary rooms from the wide field abroad and the churches and societies at home. Regard for self never seemed to enter into Miss Child’s thought, except as she could be used in carrying out the great commission. We have her own words “that nothing connected with the work of the Woman’s Board seemed like drudgery, not even the dullest detail of routine work.” It was all glorified by her own consecrated spirit. It is not too much to say that such utter unselfishness has seldom been embodied in a human life. We all remember the keen sense of humor that relieved the strain and smoothed away the difficulties of many a hard situation.

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In new undertakings her splendid courage and unwavering faith compelled admiration and support. She was wisely conservative, yet genuinely progressive, holding to old methods as far as they answered the purpose, but constantly devising and appropriating new measures. Through her sweet reasonableness and fair-mindedness the constituency were disposed to loyal co-operation. Miss Child's broad, intellectual grasp of the conditions at home and abroad, combined with a certain judicial temper of mind, made clear the wisdom of plans proposed and carried the convictions of associates.

In forming an opinion on any missionary question, she always considered its relation to the whole work, and thus kept it in the right place and proportions. As a secretary this was one of her most distinguishing characteristics, and it made her an eminent authority among missionary counselors. By long experience and great knowledge she could forecast the results of certain lines of action with unusual accuracy. Her outlook was long and wide; she planned large things, and brought these plans to successful execution. All her gifts were freely used in editing *Life and Light*. She had a wealth of material in her hand and heart for its enrichment. Its high place among the missionary magazines of the day is due to the untiring efforts of the editor, and it stands an enduring monument to her ability and literary skill. If she had done nothing else except this editorial work, we should say the full measure of service had been rendered. Visits to mission stations were made in Spain, Turkey, India, China and Japan. They were utilized at once, and ever since have proved of great advantage in developing the work of the Board.

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An extensive correspondence with the field always had special reference to the needs of the work and the individual perplexities of the missionaries. The bond between the workers abroad and the Home Secretary was close and sympathetic; each one knew her as an intimate friend.

Miss Child was an active member of Central Church, Boston, in which she was the valued and enthusiastic leader of the foreign missionary organizations. She was a director of the International Institute in Spain and of the Ramabai Association, the vice president of the corporation of the American College for Girls in Constantinople, and a corporate member of the American Board. As the Chairman of the World's Committee of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Societies, appointed in London, England, in 1888, she had much to do with planning the meetings for women at the Ecumenical Conference in New York. She was Chairman of the Committee on the United Study of Missions, which has already brought out *Via Christi* and *Lux Christi*, and has thus initiated a work of great promise. But I need not say more; others will bring their affectionate tributes and clear testimony to the worth of this beloved leader, who, in the fullness of her labors "has fallen on sleep." For her how great the gain—without pain or long illness—to pass into the presence of the Lord forever more; for us there is an imperishable memory of sweetness and grace, of a large soul and a great service. We have the inspiration of all that she was, as friend, counselor and leader. We have a sacred legacy in the work she loved. May the supreme need of the world take possession of our souls as it did of hers. May the

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power of her abundant life rest as a quickening benediction upon the women of the Woman's Board of Missions and the churches. Once more we give thanks "for all the saints who from their labors rest."

"Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine."

Mrs. James L. Hill

Representing the Branches

I could best represent the Branches if I could recall and recount the sights I have seen this morning. On the train, in the railway station and upon the streets I have met friends, familiar for years in the meetings of the Woman's Board, and have recognized persons from various Branches within our own state, and from other states, all wending their way to this one point. It required no exchange of questions to know whither they were all going. The community of interest and the common sorrow made words unnecessary. It was touching to see some coming burdened with their many years or weakened by illness. But all came because Miss Child has been our friend. Among the Branches she was loved for the work's sake. Hers was the spirit of those who say, "Ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

Who will take her place? No one. One person never takes another person's place. Each one has his own place, which no one else can fill. But who will do her work? No one. No *one*. It will take many.

Abbie B. Child

Here is the opportunity of the Branches. After the death of a minister's wife her sorrow-stricken family were sitting motionless with their grief, when one of them said: "This is not the way mother would want us to do. Let us all unite to take up her unfinished work." And so when they had done as much as they thought it their duty to do in any one day, they would make one more call, or do one more task, "for mother's part." Speaking for the Branches, we will try by our united effort to take up her work.

Missionary work developed her as she developed the missionary work. She was a broader, nobler Christian woman by reason of her unselfish devotion to a noble cause. Becoming such a woman, she could make a larger contribution through her personality than otherwise would have been possible. All this is suggestive to us respecting what womanhood may become and then what it may contribute. Her womanhood was a bi-product. It was of extreme value. To the development of the home churches she gave her untiring efforts. As Home Secretary she organized strong, helpful bands of women to become auxiliary in carrying out the Saviour's great command. Like Paul she could speak of "that which cometh upon me daily—the care of all the churches."

In the promulgation of missionary literature she has been a leading factor. Quick to observe the modern awakening of women to a new desire for reading and study, she helped to devise means which, while satisfying this craving for mental development, should at the same time create an intelligent interest in the cause which she so dearly loved to serve. During her day

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literary supplies were revolutionized. The advance of the public school, the increase of the colleges for girls, the deepening of popular intelligence, created a quick demand which she was not slow to detect nor tardy in supplying. Just here is a distinctive feature during her era. What an alcove of missionary literature the Woman's Board possesses as a memorial of her! When the history of our literature, very precious, is traced, the genesis of it will be found in her. Though there may now be less need to mark out new paths in these fields of thought, there is the greater need that the work already so wisely planned be brought to the attention of an ever-increasing number of Christian women. This it can be the happy privilege of the Branches to promote. She without us cannot be made perfect. For the actual sending of the gospel to such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death her great heart yearned. Everything else was tributary to this. Speaking for you, when I am but one of you, may I not in your name accept this bequest of unfinished work? The Branches have received a legacy not only in her literature, but also in her life. Nothing became her more than the ending of it. She died at her climax. There was no long dying. We personally felt her in the exercise of her rare powers, and have bowed our heads at this last intimation of God's providence, which has come "like the benediction that follows after prayer." Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like hers.

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Miss Clementina Butler

**Of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the
Methodist Episcopal Church**

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church mourns with you to-day in the loss of your devoted leader. We have followed you in good works ever since 1869, when we organized a society after the model you had shown us the previous year, which has since been greatly blessed of God. In this following we have been many times your debtors. Miss Child was ever a wise counselor, a safe leader, a true magnet, pointing surely toward the straight path of duty. One's impression of her was like that of the saint in the legend of the Holy Shadow: she accomplished so much good of which she had no knowledge or idea. Her rich offering of consecrated service was so complete that others were compelled by her example to render nobler effort for the cause she loved. For the share which the women of Methodism have received of the helpful ministries of this life, we thank God. Others during the years have talked, preached, and written of Christian union; Miss Child *united* the Christian womanhood of this and other lands in a systematic study of the needs of the world, and of the progress of the holy warfare which is to bring all nations to the Cross of Christ. This blessed bond, in its increasing usefulness, will be the glorious memorial of the beautiful life now crowned amid the activities of the higher service.

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Mrs. Lucy M. Waterbury

Of the Woman's Baptist Foreign Missionary Society

We have come to-day to comfort one another, and yet why do we grieve? If this were an anniversary we would not look back over these beautiful years with sorrow and tears. As we study this wonderfully complete life, and as we picture the glorious future of our friend, there should be no feeling of sadness. It is only the sense of separation that brings us pain, and yet in the highest sense there is no real separation. Miss Child was a member of a church, Secretary of this Board. It is true she has gone out from these organizations, and we shall miss her, but she was pre-eminently a member of the Kingdom of God, and she has not left that eternal, spiritual, universal Kingdom. She has gone on a little farther than we who meet here to-day, but we, too, are living in the same Kingdom, and after a little we shall take the same step and shall surely find her. Let us rather sorrow to-day for women who, though they may be outwardly members of the church, have never entered into this enduring, this eternal fellowship of the Kingdom of God.

It was through Miss Child's efforts as Chairman of the World's Committee, and later in our association on the Committee on the United Study of Missions, that I came to know her and to love her. She was always greater than her position, broader than any single division of the Christian Church. While many were discussing denominational unity and questioning whether

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it would be possible, Miss Child caught the vision and "followed the gleam," and we to-day, as women's societies, are practically federated for the important work of the study of missions. But others have spoken of her work in its varied aspects; I would rather dwell on the woman as she impressed me in our frequent meetings together. Her fine simplicity was most attractive. She expressed herself always in the simplest, most direct fashion. Another marked characteristic was her gentle persistence. She did not enter upon an enterprise from mere impulse, and having begun she must see it to the end. She was a woman of rare executive ability, and to this she added the still rarer gift of managing affairs without attempting to manage people. This made her a leader with whom it was a delight to plan and work. While she was extremely modest, and never sought a place of prominence, she always filled it admirably. She was anxious to have things done rather than to do them. Though she felt that some one else might do better, it was just "her thinking of others made you think of her." While absolutely true to her own convictions, she was tolerant and hospitable to the opinions of others. Her judgment was clear and strong, her sympathies broad. A woman of deep sentiment, she was yet entirely free from sentimentality. Her sincerity was unquestioned. One was impressed by the utter absence of anything like cant in her thought and her speech, though all felt the depth and earnestness of her religious experience. These qualities, which are not common even among Christian women, helped to make Miss Child one of the remarkable women of her age and land. Her place can hardly

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be filled by any one woman. Does this seem high praise? We read in an old book of wisdom: "Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain, but the woman that feareth the Lord *shall be praised.*"

What can we do without Miss Child in church and society and the still broader work of the Kingdom? If we truly appreciate the lesson of her faithful life we shall strive to do just what we would do *with* her. This will not be easy for some of us. Those who loved her best and came closest to her woke one morning to find her gone with no word of farewell or of counsel. They cry out as all of us have done when the veil has been suddenly drawn, for just one word, one single message, but no one ever comes back to speak that word. We wait and listen in vain. Yet One did come back long ago to his sorrowing friends, but he told them nothing of the mystery, he brought them no glimpse of the glory beyond. He came with just this single message, which I think our friend would echo if she, too, might come back and stand here and speak to you to-day: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," was his *after*-word. Be sure it is the message as well of all his true disciples. It was Miss Child's life word and work. Having entered more fully into life, she would only speak it more plainly and with greater power. This Hereafter which seems so mysterious and hidden is just the *here* after. If we have begun the real life of the spirit, eternal life, here, is it not to go in a higher, nobler, more perfect way *after*? How much more glorious, it is not for us to know to-day. That it is far more exceeding and eternal we are sure.

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So the word for us to-day is, "Work." We must not be diverted even by the glory which is *to be* revealed. Whittier tells the story of a French ship which, after long months of voyaging in distress and peril, at last drew near home. The sailors woke one bright morning to see the shores of sunny France, and their joy was so great that it completely overcame them, and they were unable to bring the ship into port until relief was sent them.

We are glad that for our friend the gates to new life have opened. While she was with us she continually carried life and light to women of far-off lands. Life and light was the message sent from Miss Child to the women of the churches. She knows to-day the Life and the Light in all its fullness. Let us, too, look away from the thought of darkness and separation and death and be comforted.

"For life is ever lord of death,
And love can never lose its own."

Address by Rev. E. E. Strong, D.D.

This, I take it, is in some good sense a family gathering. The American Board and the Woman's Board are constituent parts of one household; and in this, as in all true households, if one member suffers, the other members must suffer with it. A loss like that which has befallen the Woman's Board is felt deeply by the American Board, and we bow together in a common sorrow. Yet, if I understand the spirit of this gathering, we are not assembled to bewail our loss, but rather to

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talk together of our friend and co-laborer who has been taken from us, so that in recalling what she was and what she has done we may encourage ourselves in the Lord for the further work before us. And I am sure that in the remembrance of the life and work of Miss Child there is everything to inspire and cheer us, so that though we deplore our present loss, we may find a positive uplift as we speak together of her.

In estimating the life work of any individual we ought to have in mind not merely its conclusion, but the point from which it started,—what went before to give impulse and guidance. Thirty-four years ago last January certain wise women, whose hearts God had touched, became convinced that by banding together as a distinct organization, though in close co-operation with the American Board, they might enlist their sisters in this land in a much more vigorous effort for the elevation and redemption of their sisters living in lands of darkness. We are sufficiently far away from the views and discussions of that day to speak freely of the fact that, at the outset, the proposed plan did not commend itself to all the friends of missions, whether men or women. Some thought the proposal needless; others anticipated that it would prove divisive. There were fears of friction; there were no organizations of the kind to furnish a pattern, so that it must be a new experiment. The younger generation of to-day can with difficulty understand what doubts and questions filled the minds of many of the sincerest friends of missions as to the new and untried scheme. But these wise women were convinced that their effort was of the Lord, and they persisted. Shortly after their organiza-

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tion was formed they called to be their editor and home secretary a young lady only thirty years of age, on whom was devolved, as the chief executive officer, the task of preparing its publications, of initiating and furthering methods of work, and of guiding in their counsels. The remarkable and blessed unfoldings since that day have rendered necessary many additions to the office force, but for thirty-two years Miss Child has had her hand upon all parts of this developing work of the Woman's Board until its position is assured, with few, if any, to question its necessity or its worth.

Miss Child was not called, as some are, to a service the conditions of which were marked out for her, or to an institution which had gained a position and a momentum which would carry it forward by simply keeping on old lines. She, with others, had to mark out a new way, to devise new methods, and in the absence of precedents she had to *make* them. Of course she had others to work with her, officers and committees; but hers was a leading mind, and to her skillful initiative, her sagacious counsel, and her untiring devotion to her tasks, the success of the Woman's Board, under God, is largely due.

I have in my hand the first number of *Life and Light for Heathen Women*. It bears date March, 1869, and its preface expresses the hope that it may be sent out quarterly. Not more than half a dozen numbers could have been issued before Miss Child became its editor, and under her care it has developed into a much larger publication, not issued quarterly as at first, but monthly, and it has become a magazine of breadth and vigor, attractive in form and full of wisdom and spiritual power.

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Who can estimate the influence she has exerted through these pages for thirty-two years?

I cannot help being reminded in this connection of the symbolism used in the Book of Revelation concerning the Tree of Life, a symbolism confessedly obscure, and doubtless meant merely to suggest to us something life-giving and healthful. It is said of that tree that it bears twelve manner of fruits and yields its fruit every month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Banyan-like is this Tree of Life, with multitudinous fruit-yielding stems; and has not *Life and Light* been one of these branches whose monthly leaves have been for the healing of the nations?

I find that in the report made in January, 1870, the year in which Miss Child began her service here, the number of missionaries of the Woman's Board is given as eighteen; now there are one hundred and thirty-one. The receipts acknowledged for the previous year amounted to a little over \$14,000; for the last year they amounted to over \$139,000.

These two facts sufficiently indicate the remarkable development which has taken place in this organization during the period in which Miss Child has been one of its leading spirits.

But Miss Child's work was as counselor and administrator as well as editor, and well did she fulfill her varied service. She had a positive genius for hard work. As a writer her style was simple, pure and direct. In her utterances by mouth or pen there was nothing fanciful or strained. She knew the point which she wished to make, and she went straight for it; and that made her addresses and writings interesting, weighty and effective.

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In all matters which were in common between us requiring judgment—and they were often of daily occurrence—we learned to admire her caution, her earnest sympathy with all suggestions of improvement and advance; yet the judicial balance of her mind was never carried away by sentimental considerations or doubtful schemes. Hers was a warm, sympathetic heart and a strong and sane mind.

We shall miss her sorely. May her mantle fall on one of like spirit and devotion, of equal loyalty to her own Board and to the body with which it co-operates. We are workers together and workers together with God.

I have often thought that the American Board and the Woman's Board were like Barak, the judge, and Deborah, the prophetess, who dwelt under the palm tree. In the battle for the Lord to which Barak was summoned, he would not go unless Deborah would go with him. And she said, "Surely I will go with thee." She will tell him frankly that it will not be to his honor, but neither of them think that this matter of comparative honor is of much account. Together they go in the name of the Lord of Hosts, thinking only of the part each was to play in the great conflict; and together they sang their song of triumph when the victory was won. I am sure that if our beloved friend and co-laborer could speak to us now it would be with an earnest call to united and more consecrated endeavors to bring this world, lost in sin, to him who has redeemed it, that he may be crowned Lord of all. Let us take up the ancient song, "Awake, Deborah! Arise, Barak!" And may the God we seek to serve be with us in the future as he has been in the past.

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Resolutions

Of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions

At a meeting of the Prudential Committee of the A. B. C. F. M., held November 11, 1902, the following minute was unanimously adopted, to be placed on the records of the Committee, and copies to be sent to the friends of Miss Child and to the W. B. M. :—

“Miss Abbie B. Child, whose sudden death on Sunday morning is mourned by all her friends, was a familiar and honored figure in all missionary circles in New England, in America, in all Protestant Christendom. Next to Mrs. Albert Bowker, the founder of the Woman's Board, Miss Child has been most prominent in building up this great organization, in administering its affairs at home, and in guiding its successful work abroad. For thirty-one years she was the Home Secretary and the editor of *Life and Light*. She has been almost as well known in the missionary circles of other denominations as in those of our own, and her name has been familiar in foreign missionary societies around the world. On two occasions Miss Child made extended visits to the mission fields of the Board, and she was the official representative of the Woman's Board at the two great conferences of Foreign Missions in London in 1888, and in New York in 1900.

“The daughter of Hon. Linus Child, for eleven years a leading member of the Prudential Committee of the

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American Board, and thus brought up in the atmosphere of loyalty to the Board and missions, she was sincerely devoted to the missionary work in all its features, and loved and served the Woman's Board with rare fidelity, as an intimate and essential part of the American Board. Miss Child was a woman of high intellectual endowments, of rare discrimination and soundness of judgment, fertile in plans, sublime in faith, powerful in statement and persuasion, of absolute impartiality and magnanimity. It is doubtful if any official of any board ever enjoyed in fuller measure the love and confidence of all associated with her. She was raised up for a great service, and her works do follow her. Her death will be mourned far and wide in this land, in other Christian lands, in every station and home of the Board's missions around the globe; while her inspiring leadership, great faith and wise plans will be deeply missed in the counsels of the Board which she has served and loved so well."

Miss Child as Her Comrades Knew Her

E. Barriett Stanwood

The Congregationalist's editorial estimate of Miss Child as a missionary stateswoman will be endorsed by a large constituency in our own country and many in other lands, by none more heartily than by those who knew her best in daily association with her in the supreme work of her life. To this inner circle comes a sense of irreparable loss and deepest sorrow, as the fact of missing her henceforth forces itself into notice.

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Her cheery "good morning" always brought sunshine, and her presence was never a shadow. In perplexities she did not lose heart, and always seemed to think there must be some way out. Her fertility and courage in devising and proposing measures so large that others would hold their breath inspired courage to promote her plans and hope for the greatest results. Firm in conviction when she had thought a thing through, and persistent in the presentation of her reasons, she never failed to give due attention to the questionings and misgivings of others, often modifying her own views; and when a course had been agreed upon, whether her plan or not, she was as true to it as the needle to the pole, believing so firmly in harmony of action that, without deviating a jot from principle, she would readily yield personal preference.

The leadership which she never demanded was easily acknowledged, while on her part the greatest freedom of opinion and expression was accorded her co-workers. A more delightful relation in daily work can hardly be imagined. Much detail she was glad to leave to others, always assuming that they were as loyal as herself to the end in view, and would not fail in conscientious effort. Suspicion seemed left out of her nature, and charity, that is, love, to fill her large soul and color all her action.

She had a power of abstraction which made it possible for her to go on with work at her desk undisturbed as long as the conversation about her made no direct appeal to her, but when her attention was called she would give herself to the matter in hand as if this were the only thing in the world to be considered. She ac-

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cepted criticism so calmly that a superficial observer would never have discerned the wounds now and then made upon her sensitive soul. People outside have sometimes said she did not remember them. No wonder, when she would pass her daily associates on the street without a sign of recognition. Such incidents were always improved as the occasion of pleasant banter, greatly to her amusement. Her sense of the ludicrous, her humor and bright sallies, were refreshing.

Ability to sleep even under trying conditions was her safeguard, and the ten minutes' afternoon nap was not intermitted without evident loss. So quickly would she yield to it, and so sweetly would it hold her, that it would seem almost cruel to waken her, and it came to be understood that there was only one in the circle about her whom she could implicitly trust to arouse her at the time she had appointed.

The simple celebrations of birthdays and other anniversaries which sometimes brighten the lunch hour in "the rooms" have depended much upon her contributions by tongue and pen, in prose and verse; and no one in the Congregational House has been more ready to aid in the pleasant evenings of the Diversity Club—the organization made up of the women workers in the house. One of the most enjoyable entertainments of the club last winter was much indebted to a letter, which she wrote while in Washington for a few weeks during an extra vacation, purporting to be from the President of the United States to the president of the Diversity Club. She was always wanted, and her genial fun was irresistible. Her hospitality was ever on the alert, and a social hour over which she presided was sure to be a

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pleasure to all who shared it. She liked people and never cared to be much alone. Girls were very attractive to her, and she entered into youthful joys with rare sympathy.

Rest and recreation came in the perusal of current literature, and a recently published story often beguiled a railway ride. When she listened as others read her fingers were usually busy with a piece of dainty work. Her traveling companions on the journey home from Washington will recall the red worsted knitting which occupied some of the hours,—a part of her contribution to a sale soon to be held in her church.

Her impulses and efforts always extended outside of herself, self-consciousness never interfering with the best she could do. The hearts of those who saw her most and knew her best enshrined her in confidence, admiration and tenderest love. Her nearest and dearest of kin says: "She was so happy in her work, I could not have asked her to give it up. It was never drudgery."

The only picture of her in later years is a photograph taken when she was in India, and represents her riding upon an elephant. In the memory of her associates lives an image of a beautiful, radiant soul devoted to a great work, and large enough to include the smallest detail of generous service for others. Were we making a catalogue of the noblest, loveliest, saintliest women who have come into our lives, she could have no second place. Does this seem extravagant? But we know!—*Congregationalist*, November 22d.

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**Miss Child as Known to the
Missionaries**

Mrs. S. B. Capron

Though many phases of the home work laid their imperative demands upon Miss Child, which she so well met, any measurement of her life would be incomplete without reference to her touch with the missionaries. When returning from their fields, one of the most ardent expectations is that of going to the Board Rooms. The missionaries have sent here their urgent requests for more workers, more money, and their hopes for a large estimate of imperative needs. Perhaps there is the trust in a personal presentation of some cherished purpose of enlargement in the work. To all these varied conditions of feeling, the cordial welcome and the personal recognition and the expression of appreciation of some specially valuable service, or a tender remembrance of some sorrowful experience, are timely and precious.

Miss Child met these wanderers from afar with delightful cordiality and quick intuition as to present conditions and how these were to be adjusted to the best use of the furlough, while at the same time she was eager to secure the experience and service for the interests of the work in this land.

Her appreciation of the value of the personal presence and spoken words of the returned missionary has constantly proved an inspiration to such to make the effort to add to the impressiveness of some meeting. There

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are many of us who can well recall Miss Child's, "Oh, yes, you can," when there was a natural shrinking from the unaccustomed appearance upon the platform. At the same time she was generous in making no requests when there was the necessity of complete rest, and she often counseled against overdoing when she saw the zeal and enthusiasm of one who could not seem to spare herself even for the work's sake abroad.

In 1895, when Miss Child had completed her twenty-five years of service, through the kindness of friends she entered upon what she so often called "the dream of my life." She visited India, China and Japan, arriving in Bombay in November. Her own letters, now found in *Life and Light* for this and the year following, bear the testimony of her eager and enthusiastic study of all the varieties of work found in a mission. She writes from Bombay, "I have received twenty-six letters from the Marathi and Madura Missions."

She made addresses in schools and to gatherings of Bible women and native Christians, noticeable for their variety and adaptedness, and as was said, "a blessing and an inspiration to us all." One missionary writes, "We felt like singing the Doxology in long meter all the time she was with us."

In 1888 Miss Child visited some of the missions in Turkey, and the mission of our beloved Mrs. Gulick in Spain.

We gather as tributes to the memory of this devoted worker for our Lord's kingdom on earth some of the expressions of appreciation and sense of loss as the message of her translation took its silent course from land to land.

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From India

“During all my missionary life I have always known that Miss Child was a true friend and one interested in every branch of our work out here. She came to the steamer to see our party sail last September, and her kind face was among the last we saw as we moved out of the dock.”

“We shall miss Miss Child greatly here. I always valued her letters and greatly admired her character. We felt sure of her sympathy, and were grateful for it, and were sorry for her when she had to refuse what both she and we felt were real necessities. It seemed to hurt her to have to tell us she could not grant our requests.”

“We enjoyed Miss Child’s visit to our mission much. Her versatility in speaking was very marked. No matter how many schools she visited she always had something different to say to each one, and was apparently as much interested in every new school she visited as if it had been the first. Her unfailing sympathy, too, is something we shall always remember.”

From China

“I cannot tell you with how much of pain and of a sense of personal loss I read the tidings of our dear Miss Child’s going home. I can hardly imagine the Rooms without her. I loved her dearly. I have thought many times that if I could have my choice it would be to go as she went,—quietly, out of the midst of work or in sleep, home to the Father’s Home.”

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From Africa

“The tidings of our dear Miss Child’s home-going brings mingled feelings of sadness and praise—sadness for the empty place she leaves behind her, which will be so hard to fill, and only joy for her now in that transition from earth to heaven, which seems to me so singularly appropriate for her character. Tennyson’s prayer was, for her, literally fulfilled,—

“ ‘And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark.’ ”

From Turkey

“Miss Child seemed such an important part of the work of the Board that I can hardly think of the meetings without her. How valuable her articles have always been! It seemed to me a special privilege to have a few words with her. I remember her smile of encouragement as she motioned me to come on the platform at Berkeley Temple when it was time for me to speak at the meeting.

“Instead of regretting our loss too much, it is our privilege to thank God that we had her so long, and that he gave such a wise, efficient, consecrated woman to the Board and to each of us such a friend.

“Miss Child was indeed an earnest, wise worker, anxious to supply the needs of all the missionaries both personally and in their work, and feeling so sorry that it could not always be done. I remember that when we parted she assured me that if our requests could not all

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be granted it was not from lack of desire to do so, and she showed that her love and sympathy were with us.

“It has been well said that ‘The influence which goes forth from a true life is greater than any expression of it, however faithful.’”

Miss Child at Play

Frances J. Dyer

In the exquisite tribute which Robert Browning pays to his wife in “One Word More,” he says:—

“God be thanked, the meanest of his creatures
Boasts two soul-sides,—one to face the world with,
One to show a woman when he loves her.”

This duality of our nature finds expression in other relations of life than that between husband and wife. The stern man of business is often tenderness itself toward his child. The reticent professional man may reveal himself to his confidential friend as a most genial and companionable person.

Those who knew Miss Child only as the efficient secretary of the Woman's Board, or as editor of *Life and Light*, could hardly believe that she had a spirit of genuine playfulness. The side of her nature which she “faced the world with” had a seriousness and gravity consonant with the weighty problems to which she devoted her life. Occasionally there would be a graceful touch of humor in her public addresses, but the usual impression which she made upon an audience, and upon those who had only professional dealings with her, was of a woman so charged with earnestness as to leave no room for trifles. Though always calm and perfectly

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poised, she carried the Pauline air which says, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel" of foreign missions. To imagine this busy, thoughtful woman in the rôle of a writer of nonsense rhymes, or frolicking at a valentine party, was beyond the conception of many who thought they knew her fairly well. But those of us who were associated with Miss Child in the Congregational House learned that she had a genius for play as well as for work. She entered with a childlike zest into our good times together, and no social gathering in the building was considered complete without her presence.

In the spring of 1887 the women employed in the old Congregational House formed an organization which bears the unique name of the Diversity Club. Miss Child was one of the charter members, and so long as she remained with us she contributed generously, in time and service, to its success. Naturally we turned to her whenever we wished to draft important resolutions, or formulate any careful statement, but we soon discovered that her versatile pen and ready wit could serve lighter ends equally well. She was particularly happy in her gift of poetic expression, and the secretary's books show many a clever bit of verse, written apparently without the least effort. She had a quiet way of gliding into the library and hiding for a few minutes in some dusty alcove, from whence she would emerge with something scribbled on odds and ends of paper that would convulse us with laughter when presented at the club.

One evening among the guests were Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster and Mrs. Harriet Prescott Spofford. A feature of the programme was a discussion on the

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“Advantages of Spinsterhood.” With as much seriousness as if addressing a missionary meeting, Miss Child enumerated the most nonsensical reasons for remaining single till her voice was drowned by peals of laughter from her listeners. To these ladies, who knew her only as an official of the Woman’s Board, this side of her character was a revelation. But one can no more give an adequate picture of her at play than one can restore the effervescence of champagne.

At another time, soon after her return from the Orient, she gave a description of “Things I Rode In,” which, in point of picturesqueness, delicate humor and literary finish, was inimitable. So, in these hours of relaxation, we also discovered that the treasures of her mind were not limited to missionary facts. Her knowledge of the fine arts and of general literature was broad and varied. A paper which she read at one meeting on Cimabue and Giotto opened our eyes to the wealth of her intellectual equipment and her taste for æsthetics. She had cultivation as well as consecration. We who came into this close relation with her, as a fellow laborer under the same roof, cherish with peculiar tenderness these memories of Miss Child at play.

We append one of the poems written in moments snatched from pressing duties as an illustration both of her willingness to render service of this sort and of her facility in writing verse. It is characteristic that the original draft was penciled on the reverse side of a circular making a special appeal for missions. We can easily imagine her as turning from this matter of momentous interest to scribble these lines, which were sung to the tune of Auld Lang Syne:—

In Memory of

With friendly words and greetings kind
Come we together here;
Our cares and duties all forgot
In an hour of bright good cheer.

CHORUS.

For bright good cheer we meet to-night,
For an hour of bright good cheer;
We'll drop our pens, our toil forget,
For an hour of bright good cheer.

'Mid cares and deeds for suffering ones
In need, both far and near,
We'll take an hour for lighter themes,
An hour for bright good cheer.

Cho.—For bright good cheer, etc.

Forgot be all the heathen world,
Forgot our country dear,
Forgot be Freedmen, Mormons, all,
In an hour of bright good cheer.

Cho.—For bright good cheer, etc.

And then with fresher minds and hearts,
For our brief sojourn here,
To toil we'll turn with keener zest,
For an hour of bright good cheer.

Cho.—For bright good cheer, etc.

So may we ever labor on,
Though narrow be our sphere,
That we may hear the glad "well done"
Through years of heavenly cheer.

CHORUS.

A brief but faithful service here,
Then years of heavenly cheer;
We'll drop our pens, our toil forget,
In years of heavenly cheer.

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Miss Child's Coronation

Mrs. Joseph Cook

In a certain sense Miss Child reached the climax of her career at the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Woman's Board of Missions, held at the nation's capital city, in November, 1902. She was one of the speakers at the evening session, which was considered the top and radiance of the series of meetings. Miss Ellen M. Stone was also on the programme, and Dr. Barton, of the American Board.

The music was led by the gifted, blind organist of Dr. Newman's church, and the choir of fifty trained voices gave Handel's Hallelujah chorus, none of us dreaming that dear Miss Child would hear the angelic choir hymning the heavenly hallelujahs before another week had passed.

If Mrs. Judson Smith, in her most appropriate words of introduction, had known that she was placing a laurel wreath on a victor's brow, she could not have done better. But Miss Child seemed almost stunned by this meed of praise, and those who sat on the side of the platform saw a certain hesitancy, a slight swaying before the speaker gathered herself together by a supreme effort and opened her subject, "The Woman's Board; Its Aim and Responsibilities." It was the unsuspected valedictory of the one most closely connected with the Board since its inception,—a look backward, a look

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forward. This rehearsal of the achievements of the Woman's Board was the hail and farewell of our chieftain.

The successful launching of the United Study of Missions was a genuine triumph to its originator and most vigorous promoter. "A Missionary Stateswoman"—that is no extravagant title to apply to the Home Secretary of the Woman's Board of Missions. She had a much larger way of looking at things than is usually accorded to her sex, but which is in all minds to a certain degree both aroused and strengthened by the wide horizons which open to those who deal with problems touching the weal of women in all lands. Phenomenally modest and unassuming, yet Miss Child was always our recognized leader in the untried paths of new ventures. Such an untried path was this United Study of Missions, and most fortunate were we in securing so skilled an educator and missionary expert as Professor Hodgkins, formerly of Wellesley College, to prepare the initial volume. But it was due to Miss Child's push and daring that we ever departed from the ancient type of scraps for our missionary meal instead of instituting the present well-ordered feast.

It was with a beaming face that Miss Child told me at the Washington Annual that there were still as many copies of the *Via Christi* called for as of *Lux Christi*, and it was wonderful to see how, more and more, the women were coming into line. One need only to hear the reports from the Branches at the delegates' meeting to realize the impetus that had come even to country auxiliaries from this systematic study of missions.

The completion of the somewhat slow raising of the

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fifty thousand dollars, or the Adjustment Fund, was, perhaps, the sweetest draught in Miss Child's cup of pleasures at the annual meeting. Happy forever must that unknown donor of the final eight thousand dollars be to feel that she was the means of lifting a heavy burden from Miss Child's heart. And so with radiant face and step elate she hastened to Boston to get the necessary printing done for the forward movement of 1903, and to take up again with fresh courage the work of the new year.

But her task was done. She was ready for coronation. Beautiful beyond words was the departure hence of our beloved leader.

The brave heart so attuned to high endeavor had begun to beat feebly in its flesh-robe of encumbering clay. And suddenly, on the Sunday morning after the splendid meeting in Washington, it ceased to beat altogether. Life has not closed for her.

"Life has but flung for her its portals wide;
And death defeated, and the grave defied,
Forth on triumphant quest her soul doth wend."

Mission Studies for January.

A Missionary Stateswoman

Editorial in the Congregationalist Nov. 15, 1902

When Mrs. Judson Smith, President of the Woman's Board of Missions, in introducing Miss Abbie B. Child at the Washington meeting last week, characterized her as "probably the best-known woman in this country and abroad now engaged in foreign missionary work," she little thought that before a week slipped by the words might properly be repeated as an effective sum-

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ming up of Miss Child's completed career. Her death removes one who ranks with the noblest Christian leaders of her generation and one whose influence has been felt round the globe. Next to Mrs. Albert Bowker, who projected the Woman's Board of Missions and who guided its early development, Miss Child has had most to do in bringing the organization to the point of vantage which it now holds. Indeed, most of the expansion of recent years was due to her initiative. Mrs. Bowker chose wisely when at the start she selected this modest Boston young woman, who had grown up in the atmosphere of a home saturated with faith in foreign missions, to be her chief assistant in organizing the women of Congregational churches for special service of their unenlightened sisters in foreign lands. Miss Child grew with the work, and even before Mrs. Bowker, on account of failing strength, retired more than ten years ago, Miss Child had all the departments of the work well in hand, and added year by year her ripening experience to the capital and the service of the organization which she loved better than life.

Effective as she was in the details of office administration, her vision swept constantly over the wide field without. In 1888 she visited Turkey and Spain. Later she was absent nearly a year studying conditions in India, Ceylon, China, and Japan. Unusually well read in the literature of missions, she came back from these personal studies on the ground better equipped for the directing of the work as a whole. Her plans reached far into the future. She discerned drifts and tendencies, and forecasted what was to be. But her judicial temper, inherited perhaps from her father, kept her

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from being visionary, and she had an unusual gift of bringing things to pass without the noise of machinery, and without ostentatious display.

By degrees the world at large became aware of the unusual caliber of the person at the head of the foreign missionary activities of Congregational women. At the great missionary conference in London in 1888, Miss Child was made chairman of the World's Committee of Woman's Boards. At the Ecumenical Missionary Conference in 1900 she was appointed chairman of the committee on the United Study of Missions, and she, more than any other one person, created and put into operation the system which is knitting together thousands of women in our denomination in the united study of missions.

With singular self-effacement Miss Child lived and rounded out her fruitful life. The sweetness, the sunniness, and the sprightliness of her character made her beloved by all who knew her well, and nowhere more tenderly cherished than in the circle of her fellow-workers. But while fulfilling faithfully and successfully all the public functions which her position involved, and believing in woman's right to enter any sphere in which she was fitted, she nevertheless held herself far below her value, and preferred the background of quiet influence to the foreground of conspicuous activity. But now that this modest, unselfish, untiring servant of Christ and of the church has passed in an instant to her heavenly home, we are made to realize as never before the worth of her character, and the far-reaching influence of a life devoted to the greatest ends to which a woman can consecrate her abilities.

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Resolutions

Resolutions on the death of the Home Secretary of the Woman's Board of Missions have been received from the following organizations :—

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Boston.

Woman's Board of Missions of the Interior, Chicago.

Woman's Board of Missions of the Pacific, San Francisco.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of Presbyterian Church in Canada.

American College for Girls, Constantinople.

International Institute for Girls in Spain.

Woman's Home Missionary Association, Boston.

Central Committee on United Study of Missions.

Woman's Union Missionary Society, New York.

Woman's Auxillary of Episcopal Church Missions, New York.

Woman's Baptist Foreign Missionary Society, Boston.

New England Branch of Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of Methodist Episcopal Church.

Woman's Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church, New York.

Student Volunteers.

American Ramabai Association, Boston.

Resolutions and other expressions of appreciation and sympathy have been received from the Branches generally and from many local societies.

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Tributes

From Societies and from Individuals

"Her name is a household word in all Missionary Boards; her example inspiring; her faithful attention to the details of her duties, even her explanatory notices were written with such care as to attract attention, the effect of which was, in most cases, the carrying out of these ideas."

"Hers is now the higher service. We remain with the legacy of an inspiration to more consecrated labor because of our contact with the beautiful life now crowned."

"She was a wise counselor, of dignified and modest bearing, full of patience and an invincible hope. She gave to our enterprise valuable help, and brought to our meetings a quiet strength. We are grateful for the assistance she gave us, and for the illustration of clear-headed and warm-hearted womanhood she, all unconscious of it, ever furnished."

"We witness to her absolute self-effacement; to her utter consecration; to her obedience to the law of kindness; to her beautiful fairness in the consideration of all questions under discussion; to her willingness ever to take broad views of things and events."

"What tact she had! What calm confidence and unruffled composure! The beloved of the Lord dwelt safely and passed into the everlasting arms in such a

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beautiful way. Her talents were unusual, her manner restful, her composure begat confidence. How she must enjoy heaven !”

“It is a blessing that Miss Child was so widely known and so universally beloved, in order that many a heart may be stirred to a more thorough consecration because her work has fallen from her weary hands. As we magnify the grace of God manifested in her life, may we desire as never before the fulness of blessing which shall more completely fit us for service.”

“As members of Branches and auxiliaries we have somehow come to know and claim her in a peculiarly personal sense, and in her quiet presence, so full of strength and tenderness, we all found inspiration and benediction.”

“She was a unique character, thoroughly consecrated to the foreign missionary work, and her influence was by no means confined to the work of the Woman’s Board, or indeed our own denomination ; but through the Ecumenical Missionary Conference and the United Study of Missions, of which she was the leading spirit, it has reached, to a large extent, all our churches.”

“How delightful that Miss Child is beyond planning ‘ways and means ;’ beyond the weariness and toil, and rests in the love she has so trusted in all these years—the kingdom of His love.”

“All true friends of missions can look on the bright side of this bereavement and praise the Lord who gave this feeble body strength so long to bear the heavy burdens, for indeed her body seemed all along too frail a casket for her great mind and heart.”

“Coming home from the Washington meeting, Miss

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Child was in the seat behind me. Just before I was to leave the car she leaned forward and said, 'Have you ever been sorry that you gave up your school?' and added, 'I know that I must very soon give up my work on the Board, and I am wondering how I shall bear it.' Dear heart! she has been spared that trial, and now rests from her labors."

"Since the Washington meeting some one has told me of a copy of *Life and Light* that is taken by an interested woman at some sacrifice, and after being read is sent to another interested woman in a still smaller town, who uses it in her Sunday-school class, passing it from one to the other. One of the members of this class, who is now teaching school, says that she reads the magazine each month 'from cover to cover.' This is a glimpse of the influence of the magazine which I should have treasured for Miss Child a few days ago."

"How perfectly her work was done, even to the printing of the circular calling for the advance, her last act initiating a forward step so characteristic of all her career."

"To be caught away, out of the Master's work into his presence, in the twinkling of an eye,—it is the reduction of death to its smallest significance, all but its abolition."

Miss Child's Own Words

Organization

Of the forty thousand members in our senior societies, perhaps five or ten thousand are laboring heartily and earnestly for the cause. The remaining thirty thousand

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help us by their donations, and, we believe, by their prayers. They seldom come to our meetings; less than thirteen thousand take our magazine; they do not often express a deep interest in the progress of our Board, but they are an important part of our force of workers; their aid is indispensable, and more and more they are coming into hearty co-operation with us. Of the ten thousand earnest ones too much cannot be said. They bear the cause on their hearts day by day; they are always responsive to the demands of the work; great needs do not discourage them; emergencies do not terrify them; they are untiring in their search for knowledge, unceasing in prayers. Not all the ten thousand come up to this standard, but many of them do. Especially is this the almost universal standard of our Branch officers. Strong right arms they are, striking telling blows, not for our Board alone, but for the Master whom they serve. Their ultimate aim never changes; it is the same as that set before our Board from the beginning—to arouse, inform, persuade all the women in our churches as to their opportunity, their duty, and privilege in the work for foreign missions.

There are at least one hundred and fifty thousand Christian women in our churches who, so far as we know, have never heard the call to just this work for their Lord.

Many societies report progress; others, by stress of circumstances, have fallen behind the record of previous years, but all are alive, and in all more or less steadfast, earnest work has been done. In general, we notice encouraging success in reaching the indifferent, a broadening conception of the great work to be done,

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more ready response to the demands of the local auxiliary, a deepening sense of responsibility for its progress, "a new purpose to overcome difficulties and to persevere amid discouragements." "Women are realizing more and more that it is as essential to mental growth to become members of the Woman's Board of Missions as any other literary society." One faithful leader for years writes, "The society has done a thousand times more for me than I for the society."

It is most important to carry the blessing of work for foreign missions to the women in the home churches. We have seen empty lives filled with a satisfying, elevating work, sorrowing hearts soothed and comforted by an absorbing, ever-widening purpose, narrow lives broadened and roused by an outlook at the march of our Lord and Master through the earth. We crave for the still indifferent ones the untold blessing that might be theirs. We cannot force the women in our churches to an interest in foreign missions, but it is our privilege to try to enlist them in the effort to reach the fifty millions of women and children under our care in non-Christian lands. For the ultimate attainment of this purpose we are responsible to our missionaries, to our faithful native Christians, to the great mass of women in darkness, and to the Master himself.

Meetings

Our Friday morning meetings continue to be most inspiring. We wish to record our high appreciation of the blessing this weekly gathering of seventy-five to one hundred women has been to our work. The large attendance shows that it holds a warm place in the

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hearts of the women in Boston and vicinity, and it also affords a most delightful rendezvous for interested workers from all parts of our own country and from the four quarters of the globe. The faces of many missionaries have grown familiar and very dear to those who have met them on the close family footing that the meeting affords, and it has been pleasant to welcome native workers from India, Iceland, Bulgaria, Syria and Spain.

One lack in some of the auxiliary meetings, both large and small, has been observed with solicitude,—the shrinking from the offering of audible prayer. What possible explanations may we not find here of small numbers and scanty gifts! More costly than silver or gold, it may be, would be the “sacrifice of the lips.” We stand to-day “face to face with our answered prayers,” with a blessing on our past that leaves no question as to our call to just this work; with blessings in the foreign fields so great that the imperative demands are well-nigh overwhelming; with a future before us impossible to predict. Shall we prove ourselves equal to our great opportunity? Shall our meetings be better attended, and places of mighty pleading for the mothers and wives, the sisters and daughters, of the human race? Shall we seek for the answers to our prayers in mission annals, studying the present movements of our Lord in the world second only to our study of his life on earth two thousand years ago? Shall we lay our gifts at his feet, freely, bountifully, with a song on our lips that he calls us to be co-workers with him,—partakers of the heavenly calling? It seems strange that so many Christian women should feel no inclination, even at some personal sacrifice, to meet with their friends in the church to talk

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over the progress of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to get near to his heart in the work he loves. Ah! they lose so much who miss the blessing of it.

Let us never lose from the vision of our faith that strong, high purpose which is the foundation of all our labors,—the purpose of our Lord to reconcile the world to himself. The highest mountains in the world are among the Himalayas, in Northern India. It was my privilege one tropical December day to make the ascent toward them, sitting for seven full hours in a railway train amid the ever-increasing wonders of nature. As we started, the exuberance of the jungle was all about us, with its palms in infinite variety; enormous tree ferns, banana, banyan, and breadfruit trees; immense patches of low-growing tea; gigantic creepers, with their huge leaves leaping from treetop to treetop,—a mad luxury of growth that beggars description. In the afternoon we reached the clouds, and for two hours were shut in from every sight and sound, as if our little company climbing the steep sides were the only living beings in the world; when reaching the top of a steep grade we came out into the sunlight, and just before us were the magnificent snow-capped peaks of the Kinchinjanga range, towering far into the sky. The mists on their sides completely concealed any connection with the earth, and apparently hanging in air, glorious in the light of the setting sun, they reflected the colors of sapphire, and topaz, and amethyst, like the gates of the heavenly city. Strong, serene, and beautiful they stood, the everlasting hills. So stands the purpose of our Lord to bring the world to himself, resting upon the earth, yet above it; sometimes hidden by clouds from

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the busy workers in the plains ; firm, unchangeable, sure to be fulfilled in his own good time. May his purpose be ours as well, and inspire us to ceaseless, tireless, joyful labor till victory is gained.

The Treasury

Figures are prosaic and soulless to the uninitiated, but to one who has had experience of the power behind the figures, who has watched their growth for years, they are full of life and meaning, warm with the zeal of hundreds of earnest women, shining with a love that hesitates at no sacrifice, and shrinks from no labor for the cause. They represent disappointment and discouragement ; they tell of struggle and faith and courage and final victory, known only to Him who said, "As my Father hath sent me, so send I you."

American women do not fold their hands at the first disappointment. Once more let us gird ourselves anew for greater effort, more believing prayer, more unhesitating obedience to the call of our great Leader. There are enough women in our churches, there is enough money in their hands, to provide for every need of this blessed missionary work. Let us set ourselves steadfastly to inform, convince, persuade, enlist, enthuse those who are not with us, beginning with those nearest to us and "moving our fences farther out," till our numbers are many times multiplied and our gifts proportionately enlarged.

Life and Light

The flooding of the community with magazines of all kinds makes it difficult for our modest little book to



MISS CHILD'S CORNER IN THE WOMAN'S BOARD ROOMS.

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hold its own among so many. Much literature on mission lands is given also in the large secular publications, but *Life and Light* is one which gives just the information to make our women intelligent as to the work of our own Board and denomination. They need the magazine for their proper equipment for efficient effort in their own church, and the magazine needs their sympathetic support and co-operation.

A careful examination of our subscription list disclosed a surprising number of auxiliary officers who were not subscribers for the magazine. A courteous circular sent to these ladies, suggesting the importance of the information contained in it for a well-equipped officer, brought in new subscribers, and also showed that many whose names were not on the list had access to it in other ways. To be uninformed is to be uninterested. More and more we are convinced that one of the very best methods of promoting interest in missions is the persistent, untiring effort to increase the circulation of missionary intelligence.

Whatever the merits or imperfections of *Life and Light*, it contains information which every member of an auxiliary should have, and it is a matter of surprise to find how many officers of auxiliaries there are who do not take it. We wish most earnestly to urge that its first quarter of a century shall close with a very decided increase in its circulation. Believing in the old adage that "what is everybody's business is nobody's business," we wish to suggest that a special officer be appointed in each Branch, and so far as possible in each auxiliary, whose special duty it shall be to care for the subscription lists of the magazine, to secure an increase

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in the circulation, and to see that dues are promptly paid. Present lists will be furnished from the Board Rooms, and every possible assistance rendered. Let us all remember that in seeking these for subscriptions we are laboring for no personal aggrandizement. It is not a money-making scheme, and it will bring no fame; but we believe it will bear its part—sometimes small and sometimes large—in the progress of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Various reasons are given for not taking it; the one most often given is, that with so many other periodicals they could not read them all. I have often wondered if people would consider that a valid excuse for not reading their Bibles. I consider the records of missionary work the same as a new edition of the Acts of the Apostles, and the duty of studying them to be binding on every Christian woman.

The woman who reads and the woman who prays is the woman who gives. It is our aim to have every woman give something to foreign missions—a proportion of her income; what proportion we do not pretend to say; that must be settled between each person and her Lord. In this department, as in others, we try to cultivate the feeling of reality, to convince that the dollars really reach directly or indirectly the persons for whom they are given; that even the dimes and pennies are never lost in some unknown ocean, failing to reach anywhere or anybody in particular. For this purpose we assign our work—missionaries, schools, scholarships, Bible women, and medical work—to certain societies and individuals for support.

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Missionaries

We wish to express our great obligation to our missionaries, who render us such invaluable service at all our gatherings. Too often, we fear, their resting time is filled with much serving, yet their vivid presentation of what their eyes have seen and their ears have heard prove a power and a stimulus in the home work that cannot be obtained in any other way, and cannot be overestimated. More and more we are convinced that in our meetings lies our strength: first, because of the hundreds of prayers offered for missionary work; second, because of the intelligence and information received and communicated as to its needs and progress; third, because of the touch of heart and hand that binds Christian women together in a common effort, engendering a genuine enthusiasm and spiritual fervor which adds life and soul to any cause. As we welcome these wayworn laborers back from the front, and their companionship grows so dear as they go in and out among us; as we see them returning refreshed, strengthened, girded anew for the struggle against the powers of darkness; as we see the young ladies go out for the first time, brave, buoyant, full of high purpose,—the responsibility grows heavy upon us to see that they lack no essential thing in our power to give them, that they are never hampered because the home workers are wanting in energy, faithfulness, or zeal. As the distant members of the family come home to us, and we hear their story of pressing need, manifold opportunities, and wonderful success; as we see the heartiness with which they enter into the plans and efforts of the home workers,

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aiding us in every way in their power; as we send them back refreshed and strengthened, we hope, to take up the old burdens again; as we bid good-by to the new workers, young, enthusiastic, full of high purpose, the work takes on a personal aspect which leads us to renewed exertion to supply their every need.

These beloved workers are sure of a warm welcome as they come home to us worn and ill from the carrying of many burdens; and it is our privilege to make their stay as restful and profitable as possible, and then to send them back refreshed and strengthened for another period of service. We have heard that there was once a time when returned missionaries could find but very few people interested to hear the story of their work. Times have certainly changed since then, as our missionaries are besieged to go here and there, because no one else can reach the indifferent, nothing else can interest like "a real, live missionary." Their vivid pictures of missionary life arouse the deepest interest, till it often seems as if their work here was scarcely second to that in the field. While we believe that in most cases the warmth and cordiality and tender care that they experience is a refreshment to mind and soul, if not to the body, yet we must remember that they come to us seeking rest and health, and not make too great demands upon them. They become very dear to us all as they go in and out among us, both the veterans and those who go for the first time, and it is a real pleasure to minister to their needs.

It is with the greatest pleasure that we welcome these wayworn workers to our hearts and homes, hold them in our midst for a time, and send them back to their

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fields refreshed and strengthened in body and mind. They are by no means idle in this country, as all can testify who have been enthused and stimulated by their addresses in our meetings. It is an encouragement to know that so many are eager to hear their story, but we must not lose sight of the fact that the first aim of their return is to regain health and strength for their legitimate work, and have a care lest we do not make too many demands upon them. Most sincerely do we deprecate any attempt to make a missionary address, secured at the last moment, take the place of a carefully prepared programme for a meeting, or of study and effort on the part of auxiliary officers and members.

The Work of the Woman's Board

It is not possible to give any record of our work without a new desire to share our innumerable blessings with the women whose lives form so striking a contrast with our own. Never has this been more apparent than in our Columbian year, when all the world has entered our doors, bringing the best of its wares to our great Exposition. They have come from India, and from China, and Japan to show the best side of Buddhism and Brahmanism at our religious parliament, and they have even come from Africa and the South Seas to show us their degradation. Oh! the pity of it, that so many in this Christian land have looked upon this degradation with only the smile of ridicule, with no desire to help. What a contrast to turn from these to the statue of our great republic,—the figure of a woman,—stately, tall and grand, with both hands lifted in blessing; in one

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hand the strong staff, surmounted by the Phrygian cap, proclaiming that all men, yes, and women, also, should be free and equal; in the other, our noble bird of freedom, spreading his wings over the globe, welcoming all the nations of the earth to our shores. Symbols these are, not only of a great, free nation, but of the principles of Christianity that make this nation possible, leading us up to the motto on the beautiful peristyle, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." What does this freedom mean to us? What might it mean to women in other lands? Shall we take it for ourselves, and not share it to the utmost?

It has been a marvelous year in all our lives. We venture to say that there is not a woman in all our constituency who has not been stirred to the depths of her soul as she has seen this great republic springing to arms, the flower of our young men offering their lives freely at the call of the Government, with mothers and sisters and wives bravely cheering them on, and all for the foreign missionary idea—to save, elevate, and Christianize an oppressed people. There are those who scoff at a war for humanity; but we may not forget that the last steamer that went into the harbor of Havana—before the blockade—carried relief for suffering humanity; that the first one that went into Santiago, after its surrender, bore the symbol of the cross, and carried the same relief; that already religious liberty and free education has been established where it was never known before; that hundreds and thousands have welcomed our army as deliverers, protectors, and friends. Better still, men and women have learned to make great sacrifices for the sake of elevating their fellow-men.

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The formation of this Board has always been linked with the organized work of women in the Civil War. May God, in his wisdom, grant that in some way this recent war may lead to a distinct onward movement for suffering womanhood the world around, and that his soldiers in the thick of the battle may always be sure of the sympathy, the gifts, and prayers of the friends at home. So our link has grown this year—stronger in steadfast effort, in faith, in courage, brighter with zeal, with love, with sacrifice. With all its alloy, in all its incompleteness, we can only lay it at the feet of Him who for our sakes became poor. What poverty was his,—homeless, lonely, poor, misunderstood, deserted by friends, persecuted by foes, falsely arraigned for crime, and condemned to death. “That we through his poverty might become rich!” What riches are ours,—the exquisite beauty and enjoyment of our homes, the love of children, the delights of Christian fellowship, loved, honored, and cherished in this world, and a hope for a future of whose exceeding great and eternal weight of glory we can form no conception! Shall we receive and not share? As we once more give thanks for our unspeakable blessings, let us not forget that but for the work of foreign missions years ago they would never have been ours.

Average work, done by average men and women, is the main dependence in the world's progress, whether secular or religious. In an average year we find the leaders in our branches, auxiliaries and mission circles standing steadily at their posts, undaunted by obstacles, alert to seize new opportunities, untiring in effort. We find a membership, thousands of whom are steadfast,

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earnest, progressive. No unusual brilliant advance illumines, no calamity darkens, the horizon as we take our backward look, but we do see a patient continuance in the lines marked out for us,—a broadening and deepening of interest and consecration that are sure tokens of success.

We stand to-day on the threshold between two centuries—the past, with its awakenings and beginnings and halting progress in foreign missions; the future year, with its conflicts, its struggles, and limitless possibilities. It is with a great feeling of awe that we pause breathless at the present moment to watch the movements of the King of kings among the nations. To them he is speaking in the whirlwind, in the earthquake, in the consuming fire, and there is a voice as of a trumpet calling his Church—the men, the women and the children in it—to instant action as the time draws near when “at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”

In that day when we shall all see face to face, and shall know even as we are known, perhaps one of the greatest surprises will be the amount of undeveloped talent disclosed in ourselves and others,—talents that have corroded and almost gone into decay for want of use. In the clear light that shall then shine on our earthly life, we shall be amazed at the number of instances in which the only requisite needed for the accomplishment of noble deeds was that we should put our hands in those of our Elder Brother, and go steadily forward. However great the obstacles may have been before us, we may find that if we had only tried to remove them, we should have discovered a strength that we knew not

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of,—an indwelling Spirit, that would have carried us triumphantly over every difficulty. How can we have any adequate idea of our capacities till they are tried?

But suppose that we do not misjudge ourselves,—that our weakness is not imaginary, but real; that there are insurmountable obstacles in our pathway; is that any reason that we should not do our best, even though that best be small? We can never tell what an important place our feeblest acts and even our disappointments may occupy, when fitted into their proper niche by the great Master Builder.

If no immediate visible results follow our efforts, if earnest appeals fall cold and lifeless upon the polished surface of indifference, or excite active opposition and criticism, would it be better that they had never been made? By no means. Every endeavor in the Master's service will be owned of him, and kept in remembrance in that day when he makes up his jewels. Then, too, the very process of exerting our powers to the utmost is invigorating. Be the result success or failure, it may be the first round of a ladder which shall lead to achievements of which we have never dreamed. There can be no doubt that there are possibilities before every Christian woman in America that, if rightly apprehended, would fill her with surprise and joy. We live so much on the surface, in the rush and whirl of the present generation, that we can have no adequate knowledge of ourselves, of our Master, or the work he has for us to do. When shall we ever learn that the Master stands ready with omniscience and omnipotence to supplement every sincere effort to extend his kingdom in the earth.

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